

COLORADO ELECTION FRAUDS.; Illegal Voting by Men, Not by Women, Caused Shafroth's Resignation.

To the Editor of the New York Times:

As might have been expected, there is more rejoicing by the opponents of woman suffrage over the one woman who stuffed the ballot box in Denver, Col., than there is over the ninety-and-nine who cast their honest votes for pure government.

Newspapers throughout the length and breadth of this Union have eagerly grasped this infinitesimal evidence of fraud committed by women, as compared with that committed by the men, as conclusive evidence of the unfitness of women for the ballot. It would be most encouraging to witness the horror depicted in the writings of some of our men at the mention of fraud in this particular case, were it not for the well-known fact that they only smile at the evidence of fraud committed by men that is one hundred times greater than any ever committed by a woman.

But what makes this particular case, which it is claimed led to the resignation of Mr. John Shafroth to his seat in Congress, still more ridiculous, is the fact that the newspaper reports are not true. One would suppose from reading them that it was the fraudulent votes cast by women which necessitated his resignation.

We happened to be in Washington at the time of Mr. Shafroth's resignation. He, together with some half dozen other prominent citizens of Denver, were interviewed regarding these reports, and for the purpose of obtaining the facts in the case. Mr. Shafroth said the reports were outrageous, and that he did not resign on account of the evidence of fraud perpetrated in the particular precinct where the women are charged with cheating, but through the fraudulent votes of men in that and other precincts. He said that very few of the persons implicated were women; that the election methods of the women throughout the State, with a very few exceptions, were most honorable, and that they had exerted an uplifting and wholesome influence in politics.

Women have been voting in Wyoming for thirty-five years, in Colorado for ten years, and in Idaho and Utah for eight years, and this is the first instance where they have been found repeating at the polls. You may rest assured that the opposition would have discovered it if any woman had ever before done such a thing.

Elnora Monroe Babcock.

Source:

Elnora Monroe Babcock, "Colorado Election Frauds," *The New York Times*, March 11, 1904, 7.